Gc
929.2
D333dy
2014986

M. L.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 01236 1298

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018

https://archive.org/details/alfredday179418800dayl

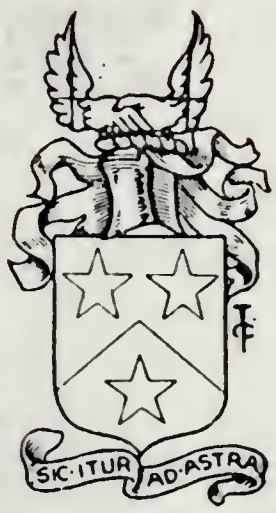
ALFRED DAY

1794—1886

SOME NOTES ON HIS LIFE AND ANCESTRY

by his son

LEVI E. DAY



Day Coat of Arms
Granted in England 1606

"There may be and there is, indeed, a regard for ancestry, which nourishes only a weak pride; as there is also a care for posterity which only disguises a habitual avarice, or hides the workings of a low and grovelling vanity. But there is also a moral and philosophical respect for our ancestors, which elevates the character and improves the heart. Next to the sense of religious duty and moral feeling, I hardly know what should bear with stronger obligation on a liberal and enlightened mind than a consciousness of alliance with excellence which is departed"—*Daniel Webster at celebration of two hundredth anniversary of landing of Pilgrim fathers at Plymouth, 1820.*

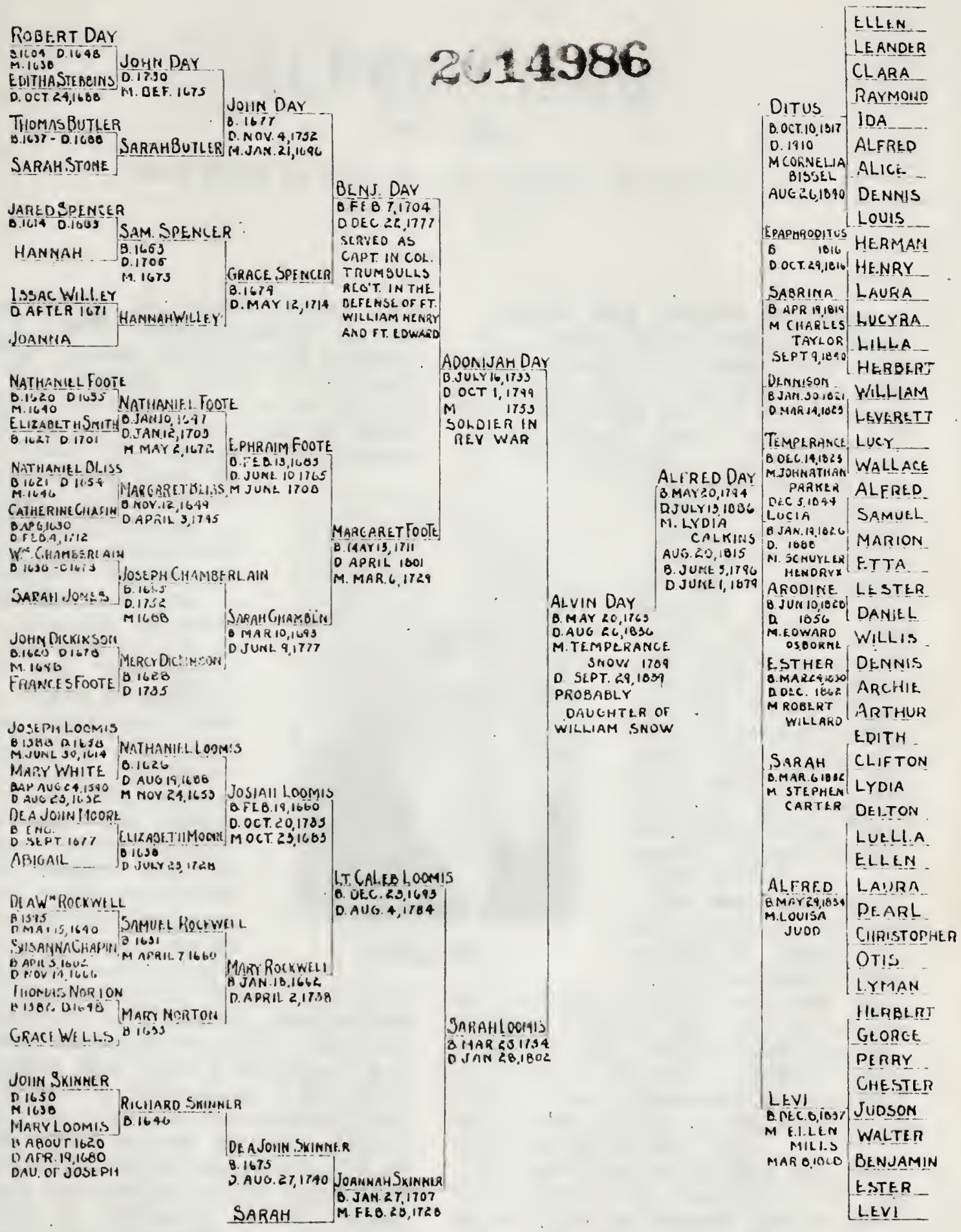
FARMINGTON, MINNESOTA

JULY, 1930

H. 063

78 8292 8

2014986



THE above chart shows part of the ancestry of Alfred Day, and the names of his children and grandchildren. It is, of course, incomplete and like all such charts must forever remain so. It may be possible, however, to add much to it. The ancestry of my mother, Lydia Calkins, and of my grandmother, Temperance Snow, may be found, as well as some of the other missing families.

None of the early colonists listed here are known to be of Mayflower lineage and it is considered quite a point among colonial societies to be able to trace one's ancestry to that first group of settlers. It is entirely possible that the Calkins or Snow families would run back to some member or members of the 1620 migration. We know that both the names of Snow and Calkins were united with the Mayflower descendants within a few generations of their settlement in this country.

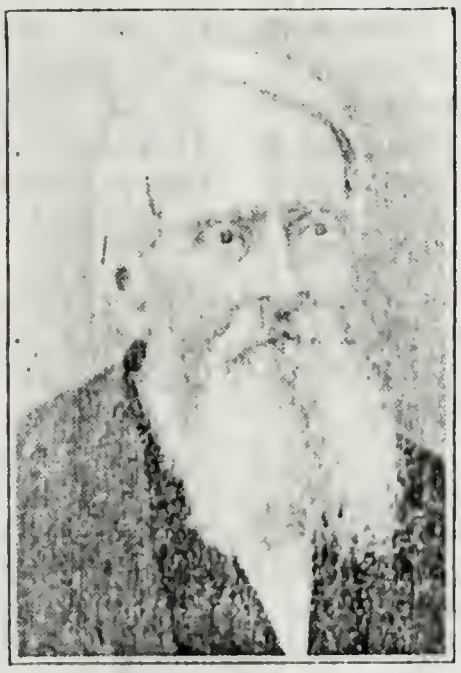
Rec'd Oct 4-1978

ALFRED DAY

1794—1886

Some Notes on His Life and Ancestry, by His Son,
LEVI E. DAY

WHEN my father, Alfred Day, left Massachussetts in the spring of 1818, and migrated up the Mohawk valley to northern Ohio, he cut off much of his contact with the Day family, most of which had lived for nearly two hundred years within about one hundred miles of his home at Wilbraham. In those days such a move frequently meant the total loss of contact, as for instance happened to one of mother's sisters and her family who moved to Michigan at an early date. Communication was slow and difficult. We heard from them from time to time but the letters became less frequent, then stopped and for many years they have been entirely lost to us.



Alfred Day

It is fortunate for us that father kept in touch with the eastern relatives. There were reasons for it, of course. He had had a deep religious experience; and one influence that made it permanent was his pastor at Wilbraham, a Rev. Bennett, with whom he corresponded regularly after moving to Ohio. Father was inclined to be independent in religious matters and spent much time writing to ministers he had heard, stating his exceptions to their teachings. He affiliated with the Restorationist movement which was later absorbed by the Unitarian church. Another tie to the New England relatives was a copy of the Genealogical Register of Robert Day, published in 1848, which father owned, and since his death has come into my possession.

I believe it will be good for us, as a family, to retain some of the information which has been preserved to us thru father's effort, and also some facts which have been recently brot to light.

Robert Day and His Migration

The earliest information we have in regard to our Day ancestry is the birth of Robert Day. The date must have been about 1604 because he was listed as a passenger thirty years of age on the ship Elizabeth which brot a company to Newton (or Cambridge) in 1634.

Robert brot to America a coat of arms which the record shows was granted to the Day family in 1606. The copy reproduced on the first page was secured thru Martin and Allerdyce of Rockport, Tex. They quote Crozier and other authorities. The colors are blue and gold and I am told the Latin means, "Thus is immortality gained".

Two years after reaching America, Robert helped to found the city of Hartford, Conn. He probably went west with Rev. Thomas Hooker, who led his congregation of about one hundred persons, to Hartford in 1636. Robert Day's name is on a monument at Hartford which was erected to the memory of the founders of that city.

His first wife, Mary, died soon after their arrival in America. For his second wife he married Editha Stebbins, sister of Deacon Stebbins of Hartford, and four children were born to them. He died in 1648 so must have been about forty-four.

Thomas, the oldest child could not have been more than twelve years old at the time of his father's death, and the record tells us that the widow married Deacon John Maynard, "who died without issue shortly afterward, leaving all his property, which was considerable, to his wife's children—"provided they carry themselves well toward their mother."

About the time that Thomas became of age his mother married Elizur Holyoke of Springfield, the grandfather of President Holyoke of Harvard College.

Our ancestor was Robert's second son, John, who continued to live at Hartford, and died about 1730. He gave his own name to his second son who was born in 1677, married Grace Spencer and later removed to Colchester, Conn., continuing our line.

In the next generation Benjamin Day, 1704-1777, became a Lieutenant in the Colonial Militia in 1747, and was made Captain in 1750. He served as Captain in the relief of Fort Edward and Fort William Henry under Colonel Jonathan Trumbull, in the French and Indian War. He lived at Colchester, Connecticut where his son, Adonijah was born in 1733. Later, Adonijah, moved to Elington, Connecticut and from there responded under Captain James Fitch to the Lexington Alarm of April 19, 1775.

The Revolution

It should be an inspiration to us to read of the conditions of that time, and the way the spirit of the people rose to meet them. A good description of the Lexington Alarm is given in "The Record of the Connecticut Men of War of the Revolution, the War of 1812, and War with Mexico", published by the office of the Adjutant General at Hartford, Connecticut in 1889.

The account is too long to quote here in full, but it tells us that when political relations with the mother country became bad, the colonists began to prepare for possible emergencies.

Committees of correspondence were organized to spread information to the various colonies. Militia companies began to train in 1774, and early in 1775 it was thot wise to provide arms and amunition.

In the spring of 1775, when her port was blockaded, Boston knew that back of her were thousands of men in her own and neighboring colonies ready to march to her relief if worse came to worse. When the trouble actually started on April 19, 1775, riders were dispatched in every direction; the one going southwest into Connecticut was Isreal Bessel, and the citizens were requested to furnish him fresh horses as fast as he ran them out.

Bessel left Lexington as soon as the fighting started about 10 A. M., April 19, and the record shows that by the next night he and others had carried the message thru all eastern Connecticut and as far west as Hartford. As soon as the people received the message, they formed their companies and marched at once for the relief of Boston.

There were about 4,000 Connecticut men who responded to the call for help but when it was found that the British returned to Boston and promised no more trouble, the minutemen returned to their homes,—most of them being back at their work within a month.

A reference to the Family Register will show that Adonijah was a man of forty-odd years and had a family of ten children at the time the company was called to the defense of Boston. I have not found that he served in the following years of the Revolutionary War. His son, Adonijah, however, enlisted in Washington's Army and an account of his sickness and death is given to us by Ariel Benton in a story of his Life and Times published by his nephew, Ira Benton, in 1882.

Benton's Account

"Adonijah Day was born Dec. 28, 1759. He died in Washington's army in the year 1776. He had what was then called the camp distemper and the dysentary. His uncle hearing that he was sick got liberty from his officer to go and take care of him; he could find no one who would give their consent to let him into their house or barn so he carried him into a barn without leave or liberty, and took care of him the best he could until he died. He was 17 years old."

Benton also adds the following notes regarding the sons and daughters of Adonijah Day: "Rachel died at the age of 11 years. Ira was drowned in an old well when he was three years old. The remaining thirteen of them lived to have families of their own; and some of them large families. Sarah lived and died in Tolland; Clarisa in Elington; Charles, Erial and Alvin in Wilbraham; Levi, Eli, Elihu, Adonijah and Lucy lived in York state; Rowena in Massachusetts, Margaret and Lydia in Ohio. Paphro died in the year 1815 in Buffalo, with the dysentary. I was with him when he died. I have visited them all at their homes but one, that was Charles. I well remember grandfather and

grandmother Day. They both died near the year 1800."

It will appear from the above that the disease dysentary was pretty serious. Many of the people died from it,—not only during the Revolutionary war, but also during the earlier part of the nineteenth century. It is mentioned in many of the old letters and was the cause of my brother's death in the early part of 1823.

We find Adonijah's son, Alvin, in Wilbraham, Massachusetts. His son, Alfred (my father) being born there on May 20, 1794. This was about the middle of George Washington's administration, and the newspapers during the past few weeks have been reminding us that the keel of the Frigate Constitution was laid that year. The work of rebuilding the Constitution, I understand, was completed in May, 1930.

Other Colonial Ancesters

The chart on page two shows us that father had a number of colonial ancestors by other names than Day. He knew little or nothing of them and we would probably not know of them had not my son, Hon. Walter E. Day, become interested in the matter during his legislative sessions in St. Paul.

Most of the genealogical material contained in the chart and the following notes regarding certain of the ancestors is the result of the work of Mrs. E. D. Champine, genealogist 4129 Upton Ave. Minneapolis. The information given here, provides all the ancenstral qualifications required for membership in most any of the Colonial societies.

Service of Colonial Ancestors

Nathaniel Loomis was freeman in 1654. He was a member of Windsor Troop of Horse in King Philip's War. Reference: Loomis Family in America, page 131.

Joseph Loomis was a woolen draper in Braintree, England; arrived in Boston July 17, 1638, tarrying one year at Dorchester, Massachusetts. February 2, 1640 he had granted him from the plantation, 21 acres adjoining Farmington river. Reference: Loomis Family in America, page 121. Joseph Loomis was a founder of Windsor, Connecticut and Deputy, 1643-44. Reference: Daughters of the American Colonists, Nat. No. 618.

Deacon John Moore of Dorchester in 1630. Came probably in the Mary and John. Freeman, May 18, 1631. He was a deacon; went with Warham 1635 or 36 to Windsor. Was there a chief man; representative in 1665-7 and often after. Reference: Savage, Vol. 3, page 228. Deacon John Moore was Deputy from Windsor for every session between 1665 and 1677. Reference: Society of Colonial Wars (1901), page 61.

Deacon William Rockwell came with Rev. Mr. Warham and Mr. Maverick to New England in 1630, and settled in Dorchester; thence in 1636 to Windsor, Connecticut. Reference: N. E. Register, Vol. 7, page 164. William Rockwell came probably in the Mary and John. He was freeman May 18, 1631; one of the first two deacons; removed to Windsor in its second year. Reference: Savage, Vol. 3, page 558.

Thomas Norton of Guilford, Connecticut was one of the signers of the first Compact. Reference: Savage, Vol. 3, page 293.

Thomas Norton came to Guilford with Rev. Mr. Whitfield in 1639. He was a signer of the Plantation Covenant and served the town as its miller until his death in 1648. He had a home lot of two acres in Guilford, also 17½ acres of "uplands in the plains". Reference: Some Descendants of John Norton by W. W. Norton (1909), page 35.

Our Day Ancestor Comes

Robert Day emigrated to America in April 1634 in the ship Elizzabeth. Was made freeman May 6, 1635. In 1639 he was a resident of Hartford, Connecticut, of which place he was one of the first settlers and as such his name was found on the monument erected to their memory in that city. Reference: Descendants of Robert Day of Hartford, Connecticut, page 7.

Jared Spencer was of Cambridge in 1634; removed to Lynn, Massachusetts. Freeman March 9, 1637. He removed to Haddam, Connecticut before 1660. Was Ensign of the Militia. Reference: Savage, Vol. 4, page 147. Jared Spencer was Deputy from Haddam, Connecticut, 1674-75-78-79-80-83; was commissioned Ensign of Haddam Train Band, September 14, 1675. Reference: Society of Colonial Wars (1901), page 335.

Isaac Willey was of Boston; removed to Charlestown, then removed to New London, Connecticut. He was select-

man in 1647; freeman 1669. Reference: Savage, Vol. 4, page 558.

Nathaniel Foote (3rd) was Quartermaster and took active part in the "Great Falls Fight" (King Philip's War), May 1676. He was a man of considerable eminence, distinction, and influence, a leading man of his day. Reference: Chapin Genealogy by G. W. Chapin, page 16.

Nathaniel Bliss was a landed Proprietor and surveyor. Reference: Dau. Am. Colonists, Nat. No. 514.

John Dickinson was Ensign of Capt. William Turner's Company in King Philip's War and killed at Falls Fight, May 19, 1676. Reference: Society of Colonial Wars (1901), page 355.

Richard Butler, father of Thomas Butler was a juror, 1643-48; an original proprietor of Hartford, Connecticut. Reference: Dau. Am. Colonists, Nat. No. 514. Richard Butler was of Cambridge in 1632; freeman May 14, 1634; removed to Hartford before 1643; was representative 1656-60, and a deacon. Reference: Savage, Vol. 1, page 321.

Rev. Samuel Stone, of Hartford, Connecticut, father of Sarah Stone, served as Chaplain to troops under Maj. John Mason in Pequot War and received a grant of land for his service. He was one of three commissioners appointed to treat with the Indians in 1638. Reference: Society of Colonial Wars (1901), page 349.

Nathaniel Foote, Sr., father of Nathaniel Foote, Jr., was one of the first settlers of Wethersfield, Connecticut and was a delegate to the General Court in 1641-44. Reference: Society of Colonial Wars (1901), page 348.

Lieut. Samuel Smith, father of Elizabeth Smith, was of Hadley, Massachusetts and Wethersfield, Connecticut. He was Lieutenant in Maj. John Pynchon's Regiment from 1662 to 1678; commissioner to negotiate with the Mohawks, 1667; Deputy from Wethersfield many times between 1640 and 1656; Deputy from Hadley many times between 1661 and 1673; Commissioner for Hadley 1661-63; Associate Justice of Hampshire Court, 1665. Reference: Society of Colonial Wars (1901), page 351. Samuel Smith of Wethersfield came in the Elizabeth from Ipswich, England in 1634. He was first, perhaps, at Watertown but in a few years removed to the banks of the Connecticut River; was representative 1641-53, almost all the sessions more than any other man. In 1659 he removed to Hadley, Massachusetts; representative often from 1661 to 1673. He was Lieutenant in a company of militia from 1663 to 1678, also, magistrate for the town. Freeman September 3, 1634. Reference: Savage, Vol. 4, page 131.

Thomas Bliss, father of Nathaniel Bliss, came to America in 1635 and settled in Hartford, Connecticut, where he was one of the Proprietors. Reference: Bliss Genealogy by J. H. Bliss (1881), page 36.

Deacon Samuel Chapin, father of Catherine Chapin, was for many years appointed by the General Court of Massachusetts, together with John Pynchon and Eleazer Holyoke, to govern Springfield. At its burning in King Philip's War he participated in repelling the attack and for his services the General Court granted him 200 acres of land, May 18, 1664. Reference: Society of Colonial Wars (1901), page 205.

Henry Chamberlain, father of William Chamberlain, was freeman in 1638; grantee of Hingham, Massachusetts in 1638; proprietor of Hull, Massachusetts in 1657. Reference: Daughters of the American Colonists, Nat. No. 514.

Nathaniel Dickinson, father of John Dickinson, was of Wethersfield, Connecticut and Hadley, Massachusetts. He was Deputy from Wethersfield from 1646 to 1656, and a member of the Hampshire Guard under Capt. John Pynchon in 1663. Reference: Society of Colonial Wars (1901), page 114.

Other Notes on Chart

It will be noticed that several of those mentioned on this page do not appear on the chart on page two. It was not easy to include them because they were of the generation preceeding that of Robert Day. They may be identified thru their son or daughter whose name is given with theirs.

To be a freeman in the Colonial period a man must be at least twenty years of age, own property worth two hundred pounds, be a member in good standing of a church, swear to abide by and uphold the laws, etc. He was then recognized as a voter and citizen.

The Eleazer Holyoke mentioned above with Deacon Samuel Chapin is doubtless the same Holyoke mentioned on page four. The spelling Elizur, of

2014986

the Day Register is no doubt a mistake. It was about this time (1658) that Holyoke married the widow of Robert Day.

Many interesting things might be found by looking up more fully, the records mentioned above.

My mother's father was James Calkins. His name should have appeared on the chart. Of father's grandchildren, Ellen and Leander were the children of brother Ditus' first wife, Cornelia Bissel. The rest of his children were by his second wife, Clara Harris, whose name also should be given.

In the family of sister Lucia Hendryx a daughter, Arodyne, was omitted. She was born in 1862 and died at five years. It will be seen that no attempt has been made to complete the data in regard to the children and grandchildren of my father, but I hope enough interest will be aroused to bring about the collection of this information.

The War of 1812

When father was eighteen years of age, war broke out again with England. In 1814, troops were organized, and father enlisted as a drummer in Captain H. Day's Company of Militia. I do not know who this Captain H. Day was. He may have been a relative of father's.

The service was a short one and consisted of waiting for an attack by the British at Commercial Point, about six miles south of Boston. The British, however, did not attempt a landing at that place and the company was soon released from service.

Father was married the following year to Lydia Calkins, daughter of James Calkins of Wilbraham, Massachusetts. Their first child, a boy, died in early infancy. The second child Ditus, was born October 10, 1817.

Migration to Ohio

By this time some of the relatives had become interested in the western country. Several families had already migrated up the Mohawk Valley into the northwest territory.

The task of moving west in those days was an enormous one and called for considerable courage, father's uncle Paphro, having died on such a trip two years before.

Tribes of Indians in the Mohawk Valley still resented the coming of the whites so that the immigrants had to form groups for the purpose of protection from them and from robbers. In the spring of 1818 when brother Ditus was six months old, father started west with his family in one of those wagon trains or caravans. He was armed with a good flintlock rifle and they got through to northern Ohio without serious difficulties. Once in Ohio they were not molested by the savages. Game was plentiful.

If we can judge by the statements in letters which father wrote home a few years after reaching Ohio, it was easier to make a living in the wilderness than in the east. The timber on father's farm in Mantua was very heavy. There were trees up to six feet in diameter. The task of clearing off this timber was an enormous one, but not as great as one might think. Most of these tree stumps would die immediately without sprouting and could be removed without any difficulty after rotting for a few years. After we had felled and burned the timber we would raise grain among the stumps. This was not difficult since the planting, harvesting and all was done by hand in those days. Here father lived until 1850 when he moved to another heavily timbered farm at Pittsfield near Oberlin, Ohio.

On to Minnesota

Our stay in Pittsfield, was a short one. Brother Ditus had become interested in Minnesota through the family of his second wife, Clara Harris. David Haris, Ditus' brother-in-law, had gone to Minnesota about 1854 or 1855. Ditus and Clara went to Minnesota about a year later to be followed there by brother Alfred. They were enthusiastic about the new country. It seemed good to them to be able to plow up the farm land without having to clear it of timber, and the soil was much more easily cultivated than the white clay of Ohio. Some of those living in Ohio considered the climate of Minnesota very severe. We were very much interested in the letters that Alfred, Ditus, and Clara wrote back to Ohio telling us how pleasant the climate was and how well the crops were doing.

Father and I came on to Minnesota in the spring of 1859 and while father did not purchase any land that summer, he looked at several farms and after his return to Pittsfield in September 1859, he made a deal with Mr. Vaughn for a farm of one hundred

and sixty acres in section three of Castle Rock Township, to which he moved in the spring of 1860. He soon found out that a railroad had claim to it, which claim was superior to his own but not to the preemptor, Mr. Vaughn. Father did not want to risk the railroad's making good its claim, so sold the farm.

The Civil War

In September 1861, I enlisted in Company C of the Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, as musician, and served as such during the following winter at Fort Ripley and the spring and summer in the South. In March, 1862, we returned from Fort Ripley to Fort Snelling and were taken down the Mississippi to the Ohio, thence up the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers to Pittsburg Landing—coming up to the main army near Corinth, Mississippi. I was taken sick there, and after some weeks in the field hospitals, was taken back to St. Louis and discharged at Jefferson Barracks in August, 1862.

The following fall I went to Hastings to the sale of school lands and purchased a farm in section 16, upon which father spent the rest of his life.

Both of my parents and brother Alfred's wife, Louisa, were taken sick with typhoid fever in the late summer of 1862. I had come home in such a weakened condition that I could do but very little work, yet I helped with the nursing and was able to drive to the various neighbors to get help to stay with the sick people at night. I also took charge of the giving of medicine and following out the instructions of the physicians. They were all very ill but recovered in due season.

Father's Last Home Established

The following spring I built a little shack on the new farm on section 16. We got Mr. John Teachout to plant wheat on the thirty acres of the place which had been broken several years before by Solomon Patridge.

During the spring and early summer I got out rails in Poplar Grove with stakes enough to fence about forty acres. In those days stock was allowed to run at large and whatever fields we desired to protect from the stock we had to fence in. Toward the fall of 1863 we got some lumber from Hastings and put up and enclosed the building which we intended to use for a granary. We expected, however, to live in the granary for a year or two, so I put in considerable time during the winter of 1863 and 1864 planing and matching lumber in order that the granary might be finished off inside and made temporarily livable.

In the spring of 1864, father, mother, Louisa, and two children, Delton and Luella, moved from section three over to the new home in section 16. A little more than a year later brother Alfred was discharged from the army. The new house, however was never built and my niece and nephew still live in the house which was intended for only a temporary home.

I built a small house on my own farm during the summer of 1866 and broke up some land. I continued to live with my parents and after brother Alfred returned from the army in the summer of 1865, I went back to Ohio and entered the Preparatory Department of Oberlin College and continued my studies until after the spring term. I then returned to Minnesota and improved my farm as much as I could. In June of 1867 I made a trip to Massachusetts and visited the families of my father's brothers and sisters. I returned to Ohio for a short visit and then to Minnesota.

In the spring of 1868 I went back to Ohio again and brought west my bride, Ellen Mills. We made our home on the farm in section 16, just west of that of my father. We occupied the farm for 27 years and nine children were born there. In the spring of 1895 we moved to Clinton Falls in Steele County. Here my wife died on July 8, 1926.

Those who have known the mother of my children need not be told that my great good fortune came to me at the time of our marriage. There is nothing that I can say that will adequately describe her wonderful work as a wife and mother in all of the various duties and obligations that fell upon her.

I have already set down a considerable amount of matter, relating to the experiences of the Day family and its members from the time of my father's residence in Mantua, Ohio, which may later be made available to those who are interested, but must be left out of this brief account.

Extra copies from author 25c each, postpaid.